IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application under 37 CFR 1.53(b):

Prior Application:

M. Mori et al

USSN 08/916,154

Filed: September 2, 1997

4-25-00

Group Art Unit:

2764

Examiner:

N. Nguyen

For:

AUTOMATIC AUCTION METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

February 18, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as set forth below.

Page 2, line 24, change "presents" to --present--.

Page 3, line 24, change "strained" to --constrained--.

Page 4, line 12, after "about" insert --an--;

line 14, after "about" insert --the--;

line 19, after "about" insert --the--; and

line 22, after "and" insert --the--.